

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Disposition of Remains of Deceased Indigents

**Policy  
Number**

E-7

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**Purpose**

To establish a policy with respect to the mode of disposition of the remains of deceased indigents.

**Background**

The Coroner is required by statute to arrange at County cost for the disposition of the bodies of deceased persons in those cases in which the deceased had no assets and surviving relatives, if any, are not legally liable for funeral expenses. In the absence of instructions by the decedent, decision as to the mode of disposition of the remains vests in surviving relatives in the order set forth in Section 7100, Health & Safety Code, subject to a contrary decision by the Coroner in the performance of his/her official duties.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

In those cases in which the Coroner has no cogent reason to direct interment, disposition of the remains of deceased indigents will be by means of cremation unless the decedent has left instructions to the contrary or the surviving relative who has the right of decision under Section 7100, Health & Safety Code, elects an alternate means of disposition.

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-95.

**Previous Board Action**

4-16-74 (69)

5-7-74 (44)

4-4-89 (51)

**CAO Reference**

1. Coroner
2. Department of Public Administrator
3. County Counsel